

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DACCA 04732 030349Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 EB-08 EUR-12 /096 W
-----066229 031922Z /46

R 020952Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 290
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4732

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT US BG
SUBJECT: CRITICISM FROM LEFT OF U.S. AND PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT WITH
BD

REF: USINFO JULY 29

1. THE JULY 29 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT
BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND THE U.S. PROVIDING FOR A PEACE CORPS
PROGRAM HERE BROUGHT A SHARP REACTION FROM THE LEFT, INCLUD-
ING SOME PROMINENT OPPOSITION LEADERS. THE AWAMI LEAGUE
CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE ISSUED A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING
"DEEP CONCERN" OVER THE PEACE CORPS' COMING TO BANGLADESH
AND GENERAL SECRETARY ABDUR RAZZAK TOLD A PUBLIC MEETING IN
NETRAKONA THAT THE AGREEMENT DEMONSTRATED THAT "BD HAS GONE
INTO THE CLUTCHES OF THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS." THIS WAS
ECHOED IN A NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (BHASHANI-NASSER) RESOLUTION
SAYING THE "INFILTRATION" OF THE PEACE CORPS IN BD WAS
DIRECTED AT MAKING THE COUNTRY A CENTER OF U.S.
CONSPIRACY. THE AGREEMENT ALSO CAME UNDER CRITICISM IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DACCA 04732 030349Z

A SPEECH BY JATIYO GONO MUKTI UNION (JAGMU)
GENERAL SECRETARY SIRAJUL HOSSAIN KHAN BEFORE A
"PROTEST DAY" GATHERING IN DACCA ORGANIZED BY JAGMU.
OTHER STATEMENTS PROTESTING THE AGREEMENT CAME FROM THE
NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (MUFFAZAR), BD JATIYO LEAGUE GENERAL
SECRETARY ABUL KALAM AND A NUMBER OF STUDENT AND YOUTH
POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE JAGMU MEETING, WHICH

CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS, WAS REPORTED IN THE TWO MAJOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILIES, AND THE ABDUR RAZZAK STATEMENT IN ITTEFAQ. THE OTHER PROTESTS WERE REPORTED IN THE DAILY SANGBAD, WHICH OFTEN SUPPORT A "PRO-MOSCOW" LINE.

2. THE U.S. CAME UNDER MORE GENERAL CRITICISM IN FRONT-PAGE JULY 30 ARTICLE IN THE WEEKLY HOLIDAY. THE ARTICLE CHARGED THAT PRO-U.S. ELEMENTS HAD STARTED A SUBTLE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE LEFT BY CALLING LEFTIST PARTICIPATION IN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT "OPPORTUNISTIC." U.S. "PUPPETS" ARE SAID TO BE SPREADING THE WORD THAT SINCE THE COUNTRY'S LEFTISTS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GAIN POLITICAL POWER ON THEIR OWN, THEY (THE LEFTISTS) ARE USING POPULAR NATIONAL LEADERS AS A MEANS OF INCREASING THEIR INFLUENCE. ONCE ESTABLISHED, THE LEFTISTS WOULD THEN OUST THESE LEADERS. THE HOLIDAY ARTICLE REJECTED THIS INTERPRETATION OF THE LEFT'S ACTIONS, SAYING THAT IN FACT THE FELT HAS UNITED WITH ALL PARTIOTIC FORCES IN THE COUNTRY TO ACHIEVE COMPLETE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND DEMOCRACY. THE REAL ENEMY OF NATIONALISM IS FOREIGN IMPERIALISM, AS EVIDENCED BY THE TOPPLING OF NATIONALIST REGIMES IN THE CONGO, CHILE AND ELSEWHERE BY U.S. BACKED FORCES. THE ARTICLE WARNS THAT WHILE THE GREATEST NATIONAL THREATS REMAIN THE "SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISTS AND INDIAN EXPANSIONISTS",
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DACCA 04732 030349Z

THE U.S. AND ITS AGENTS ARE ALSO TO BE WATCHED. THE ARTICLE DOES NOT MENTION THE PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT, BUT THE TIMING AND REFERENCES TO U.S. INTERFERENCE DO NOT APPEAR TO BE COINCIDENTIAL.

3. HOLIDAY CRITICISM ECHOED THE LINE TAKEN BY ITS OWNER, PETROLEUM MINISTER ENAYETULLAH KHAN, IN CONVERSATIONS EVENINGS OF BOTH JULY 28 AND JULY 29 WITH POLCOUNSELOR. ENAYET SAID THE AMERICANS WANTED A "PRO-U.S." GOVERNMENT BUT "THE BEST YOU CAN EXPECT IS ONE WHICH IS ANTI-SOVIET".

4. CRITICISM OF THE PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT COMES FROM QUARTERS WHICH COULD BE EXPECTED TO OPPOSE SUCH A PROGRAM AND THE LANGUAGE USED IN DENOUNCING IT WAS STOCK LEFTIST PHRASEOLOGY. WITH THE OPENING UP OF THE BANGLADESH POLITICAL SYSTEM, WE HAVE EXPECTED OF THIS TYPE OF CRITICISM. NEVERTHELESS THIS WAS THE FIRST OUTBURSE OF ANTI-U.S. SENTIMENT IN SOME TIME, AND INDICATES A DEGREE OF SENSITIVITY TO AND SUSPICION OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT HERE ON THE PART OF SOME.
SCHNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DACCA04732
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780318-0815
Format: TEL
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808109/aaaadnel.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: db158b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1565578
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CRITICISM FROM LEFT OF U.S. AND PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT WITH BD
TAGS: PINT, US, BG, PC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/db158b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014